

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP: (HUMPHREY, H.H. AND SCOTT, HUGH)

SUBJECT: CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT

REF: STATE 65444

1. ONLY YESTERDAY, SUNDAY MARCH 24, DID I LEARN OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF NINE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THEIR WIVES. I ASSUME THE EMBASSY AND OTHER AMERICAN MISSIONS HERE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED ON ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THEIR ACTIVITIES HERE.

2. I DO, HOWEVER, WISH TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE U.S. MISSION TO NATO.

3. I THINK IT UNFORTUNATE THAT THE TIMING OF THIS VISIT IS SUCH THAT THE SENATORS SHOULD BE WARNED IN ADVANCE NOT TO EXPECT TO DERIVE MUCH INFORMATION OF VALUE FROM THE DISCUSSIONS THEY WILL HAVE

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HERE.

4. NATO WILL BE CLOSED DOWN FROM NOON ON GOOD FRIDAY UNTIL THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY. SECRETARY-GENERAL LUNS WILL BE ABSENT FROM THAT

FRIDAY UNTIL NEXT TUESDAY. GENRAL HAIG WILL STILL BE IN AMERICA. NOT ONLY IS THIS PORTION OF HOLY WEEK, AND THE ENSUING MONDAY, THE LONGEST SECULAR AS WELL AS RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY PERIOD OF THE YEAR FOR NATO, BUT IT IS EQUALLY SO THROUGHOUT BELGIUM. MANY SHOPS, MUSEUMS, PLACES OF AMUSEMENT, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS, WILL EITHER BE CLOSED OR LARGELY UNFREQUENTED. AN EXTERNAL CRISIS OF MENACING PROPORTIONS COULD ALTER THIS SITUATION, BUT PROBABLY THEN ONLY AS AFFECTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

5. I BELIEVE THE SENATORS SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THE EFFECT OF THE ABOVE ON THEIR ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES AND THOSE OF THEIR WIVES, SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE UNDULY DISAPPOINTED.

6. I WOULD HAVE SUPPOSED ALL THIS HAD BEEN KNOWN IN WASHINGTON, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SAME REFLECTIONS WERE MADE REGARDING THE CODEL ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK BUT NOW POSTPONED UNTIL EASTER MONDAY, AND EVEN THEN THEY WILL BE INADEQUATELY BRIEFED, SINCE THEY WILL HAVE ACCESS ONLY TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

7. I HAVE SEEN SYG LUNS WHO STATED HE WOULD MEET THE SENATORS IF THEY SO DESIRED THURSDAY MORNING OR AFTERNOON, BUT BECAUSE OF OTHER ENGAGEMENTS WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BRUCE

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